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I Claim:

1. A contour-cutting machine, which is particularly suited for cutting foam, comprising:
 - 10 a workpiece table defining a longitudinal direction (X-direction) and having an upper side for supporting workpieces and a pair of first and second vertical sides, a table gap extending transversely (Y-direction) to said longitudinal direction between said pair of vertical sides;
 - 15 X-direction driving means for moving workpieces on said upper table side in said longitudinal direction (X) across said table gap;
 - 20 a stationary frame arranged to enclose said workpiece table in the vicinity of said table gap;
 - 25 a movable cutting-element carrier defining a quad and having an open side and an opposite side, said cutting-element carrier supporting a plurality of pulleys;
 - 30 an endless cutting element mounted on said pulleys and passing through said table gap at said open side of said cutting-element carrier;
 - 35 Z-direction driving means for driving said cutting element in a vertical direction (Z-direction) along said open side through a cutting region for said workpieces;
 - 40 first means for supporting and guiding said cutting-element carrier near said open side thereof in said transverse direction (Y) along said table gap;
 - 45 Y-direction driving means for driving said cutting-element carrier at said open side thereof in said transverse direction (Y), and

second means for supporting and guiding said cutting-element carrier near said opposite side thereof along said first vertical side of the table in said longitudinal direction.

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2. The contour-cutting machine of claim 1 wherein said first supporting and guiding means comprises a pair of first rails extending respectively above and below said table gap and being fixed onto said stationary frame, and

10 a pair of first carriages guided by said pair of first rails and being connected to said cutting element carrier at said open side thereof for being driven at the same speeds and to the same extent in the transverse direction of the table by said Y-direction driving means.

15 3. The contour-cutting machine of claim 1 wherein said second supporting and guiding means comprises

20 an upright having an upper end and a lower end, a pair of second stationary rails being located along said first vertical side of the workpiece table near said upper end and said lower end of said upright, and

25 a pair of second carriages being guided along said pair of second rails;

30 said second carriages being connected to said cutting-element carrier at said opposite side thereof for carrying said opposite side of said cutting-element carrier along said first vertical side of the workpiece table.

4. The contour-cutting machine of claim 1
wherein said cutting-element carrier comprises:
four corner members and at least an upper bar and a
lower bar,
said plurality of pulleys including two upper
pulleys and two lower pulleys, each corner member
mounting and journalling one of said pulleys;
said corner members being arranged according to a
rectangle including two upper corner members and two
lower corner members,
said upper corner members being connected to one
another by said upper bar and said lower corner members
by said lower bar, so as to define each a predetermined
distance between said upper pulleys or said lower
pulleys.

5. The contour-cutting machine of ~~claims 2 and 3~~ ^{Claim 2}
wherein said cutting-element carrier comprises
a pair of first pivot bearings and a pair of second
pivot bearings,
said first bearings being connected to said first
carriages and said second bearings to said second
carriages.

6. The contour-cutting machine of claim 1
wherein the cutting element is a band knife, the machine
also comprising a knife-rotating device for adjusting
said band knife in a desired plane of movement through
the table gap, said knife-rotating device being supported
by said stationary frame.

7. The contour-cutting machine of claim 6 also comprising
a top knife-rotating head which is a part of said
knife-rotating device, and
third means for supporting and guiding said top
5 knife-rotating head in transverse direction (Y), said
third supporting and guiding means being arranged
between, and extending parallel to said first and second
supporting and guiding means and being vertically
adjustable in distance to said upper side of said
10 workpiece table.

8. The contour-cutting machine of claim 7
also comprising supporting rollers for holding down and
stabilizing the workpiece being cut, said rollers being
carried by said top knife-rotating head.

15 9. The contour-cutting machine of claim 5
wherein said pivot bearings at said open side of said
cutting-element carrier and said knife-rotating device
define an axis, said band knife having a cutting edge,
said axis of said knife-rotating device extending through
20 said cutting edge of said band knife.

10. The contour-cutting machine of claim 6
25 wherein said movable cutting-element carrier has a pair
of corner members at said opposite side, the machine also
comprising
a grinding apparatus for the band knife mounted on
one of said corner members, and
30 a tensioning device for the band knife mounted on
said other one of said corner members.